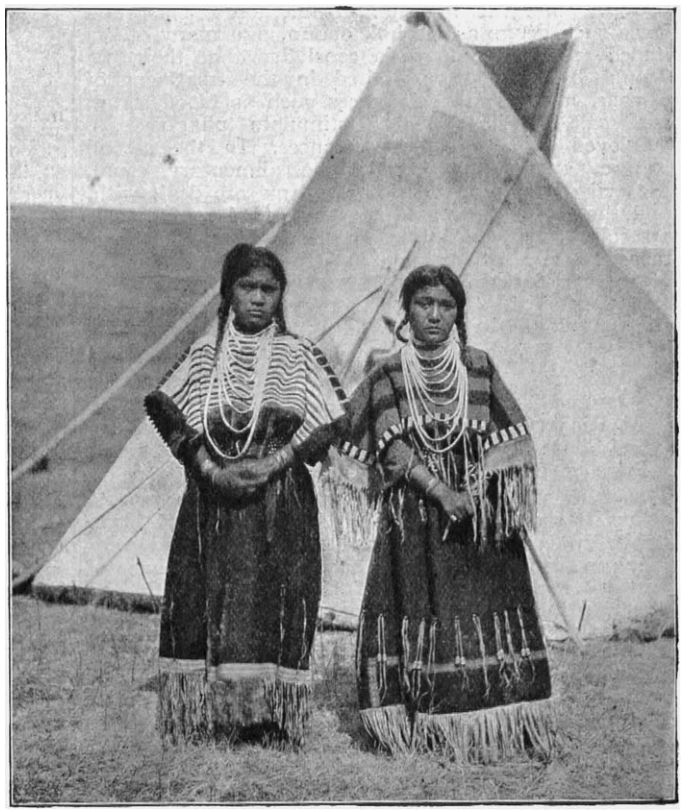
TWO CONTRASTED WESTERN CANADIAN TRIBES.[1]

MR. HILL-TOUT'S volume fully maintains the standard established by its companions which have already appeared in the "Native Races of the British Empire" series, edited by Mr. N. W. Thomas. In clearness and lucidity it perhaps surpasses either of them, for, instead of numberless insufficiently known groups, such as those of Australia, or an inextricable mass of humanity such as crowds British Central Africa, it deals merely with two well-defined linguistic stocks, the Salish and the Déné, occupying clearly marked areas, and characterised by distinct ethnographic features. Over the vast area between Hudson Bay and the Pacific Ocean diversity of climate has produced diversity of development, and the introductory chapter describes the geography, flora, and fauna of the region, and gives a brief history of the accounts of the early explorers before proceeding to the grouping of the native races.

Rarely can two adjacent districts be found presenting greater physical contrasts than those on the two sides of the coast ranges. To the east is the elevated plateau or "dry belt" with a temperature ranging from 110° in the shade in the summer to considerably below zero in the winter, while on the west the climate is like that of the south coast of Devon. Beyond the Rocky Mountains extends as far as Hudson Bay a dreary plain of rocks, marshes, lakes, and rivers, inclement and unattractive. This naturally results in a marked differentiation in the mode of life of the coast Salish from that of the interior Salish, whereas the latter in this respect more resemble the Déné who live to the east of the Rocky Mountains. It is interesting to note that among the western Déné, the Loucheux, the social divisions seem to owe their origin to an economic variation. They are divided into three exogamic divisions or phratries, called respectively Fish people, *Chit-sangh* (=fair); the Animal people, *Nah-t'singh* (=dark); and the Bird people, *Tain-gees-ah-tsah* (middle or half-brightish). This seems to be a colour grouping. The *Chit-sangh* are very fair, in some instances approaching to white, and live largely on fish; the *Nah-t'-singh* live entirely on the flesh of the reindeer, and are very dark-skinned compared with the *Chit-sangh*; while the *Tain-gees-ah-tsah* live on salmon trout and moose-meat, and are neither so fair as the *Chit-sangh* nor so dark as the *Nah-t'-singh*.



Déné Maids in Native Costume. From "British North America. 1. The Far West."

In spite of local diversity, both Salish and Déné show the "Pan-American" facial features, which are common throughout the whole continent, together with a secondary type, approximating to the so-called Mongoloid type, but no other than facial resemblances seem to the author to be common to the whole race.

Among psychic characters, the most striking are cowardice and honesty. "In point of valour they fall far below the eastern tribes." "The Northern Déné are generally pusillanimous, timid and cowardly," but they are proverbial for their honesty and their hospitality, and were in pre-trading days also for their chastity. Their folk-tales and tribal traditions

"show us that their lives were moral and well regulated; that deep shame and disgrace followed a lapse from virtue in the married and unmarried of both sexes. The praise and enjoyment of virtue, self-discipline and abstinence in young men is no less clearly brought out; whilst respect and consideration paid by the young everywhere to their elders affords an example that more advanced races might with profit copy."

The ethical principles of the Thompson Indians exhibit sound practical morality, and

"People who inculcate such virtues in the minds of their children can scarcely be called debased, or be said to be greatly in need of instruction from ourselves."

If they have fallen away from such high standards the fault is not theirs, but ours. "We assumed a grave responsibility when we undertook to civilise these races."

All the main features of native life are well and succinctly described—houses, clothes, food, domestic and warlike implements, customs at birth, courtship, marriage and death, social organisation, and religious beliefs. We wish, however, that the section on sociology had been more complete; but the most important omission is that of language, concerning which no information is given, although the author has elsewhere published a good deal on the linguistics of the Salish, on which subject he is an authority.

The volume ends with an interesting summary, describing the ordinary life of an average native "From the Cradle to the Grave," a brief and valuable synthesis of the preceding material.

"The life of an average Western Indian, as it was lived in the earlier days, was not that of a vicious

[1] "British North America. 1. The Far West: the Home of the Salish and Déné." By C. Hill-Tout. Pp. xiv+263; with 33 full-page illustrations and 1 map. (London: Archibald Constable and Co., Ltd., 1907.) Price 6s. net.

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and degraded savage. He had advanced many stages beyond this when we first came into contact with him, and his life, though simple and rude, was on the whole well ordered and happy; and if his wants and aspirations were few, so were also his cares and worries."

The illustrations are numerous and very good; we are told on p. 139 that hammers are commonly regarded by the uninformed as pestles, "but this is an error," yet in the description of the accompanying plate they are described as "pestles" and "hammers." It is greatly to be regretted that the utility of this book is restricted by the extremely inadequate "bibliography" (*sic*). The author's valuable papers in the Reports of the British Association, especially for the years 1899, 1900, and 1902, are not mentioned, neither does he give an exact reference to his own papers in the Journal of the Anthropological Institute. No clue is given where can be found, to take only two examples, Farrand's excellent paper on the basketry designs of the Salish Indians or the printed MS. of Mr. B. R. Ross. The single allusion to Prof. F. Boas is to his work on skull-deformation (reference again omitted), and the series of British Association Reports ending in 1898 is not even mentioned, although the twelfth and final report, with a good index, is of exceptional value. The important summary of Canadian ethnology in the Annual Archæological Report for 1905 (Toronto, 1906) contains papers by the author on the coastal Salish, and by Father Morrice on the Dénés, besides other valuable contributions by various authors, and as references are given to the literature the report serves as an admirable text-book on the anthropology of Canada. It is strange that no allusion is made to this publication; at all events, we recommend students who read Mr. Hill-Tout's book to consult the report in order to supplement his deficiencies.

THE LEICESTER MEETING OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

THE British Association is assured of a hearty welcome to Leicester for its seventy-seventh annual meeting to be held there from July 31 to August 7, under the presidency of Sir David Gill, K.C.B., F.R.S. Leicester is a place of great antiquity, few towns in England having a longer history of uninterrupted activity. Its Roman remains include the "Jewry Wall, a remarkable example of brickwork, and some mosaic pavement *in situ*. The geological features of the district are comprehensive, the Charnwood Forest, with its rocks providing many a geological puzzle, being within a few miles of the town. Botanists, too, have a happy hunting-ground there. The local committees and sub-committees are working hard to ensure the success of their efforts, and great interest is being shown on all sides in the visit of the association to Leicester. A guarantee fund of more than 3300*l.* has been raised towards the necessary expenses of the welcome, and this without any public appeal being made. No less than eleven amounts of 100*l.* and upwards are included in this sum.

A call has been made on all the principal halls and public buildings throughout the town for general and sectional use, and it is believed that the arrangements when completed will be most satisfactory in every way. The greatest difficulty the executive have had to meet has been the fact that Leicester possesses no town hall or public building large enough for the purposes of the holding of the usual conversazione and general reception of the large number of members and guests anticipated. An ingenious suggestion, however, on the part of the chairman of the executive committee (Mr. Alfred Colson), which has met with the full approval of all concerned, promises to overcome all obstacles, and even to make the proposed conversazione additionally attractive on account of the unique way in which it will be housed. The intention is to utilise the whole of the present museum buildings, including the art gallery and mayoral reception rooms, for the use of which permission has been granted, and to erect on the four sides of the grass square adjoining a loggia or corridor constructed entirely of timber, 25 feet in width, forming a covered promenade about 500 feet in length. The four outer sides will be closed, but the inner sides, overlooking the grass plot, will be open, and so constructed as to be easily beautified with floral decorations. Internally the loggia will be draped with incombustible material and fitted with electric light and suitable furniture. Besides answering for the reception to be given by the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society, the structure and grounds, with a military band in attendance, will make a convenient general rendezvous throughout the week.

A further edition of a very interesting work, "Glimpses of Ancient Leicester," by a local author, Mrs. Fielding Johnson, is being issued in connection with this meeting, and a handbook by another Leicester lady, Mrs. Nuttall, will be provided. The latter book will contain chapters on subjects of scientific interest prepared by various experts specially for the use of visitors.

Excursions are being arranged to many points of interest in the district, and the Mayor, Alderman Sir Edward Wood, J.P., will issue invitations to an evening *fête* in the Abbey Park. Sir Samuel Faire, J.P., will give a garden-party, and it may be taken for granted that the social side of the meeting will be well provided for. The comfort and enjoyment of all attending the meeting will not be overlooked, while the objects of the existence and visit of the association will throughout the week have the first consideration and thought.

AN AËRONAUTICAL EXHIBITION.

THE well-arranged collection of balloon appliances and models of aëroplane systems organised by the Aëro Club in connection with the Motor-car Exhibition in London presented a striking contrast to the want of organisation in the aëronautical section of the Milan exhibition of last year. The large, almost empty room at Milan, with no attempt at systematic display except in connection with the exhibits of the Prussian Government Meteorological Station, has no counterpart in the present exhibition. Here everything was well displayed, and there was no lack of exhibitors and assistants ready to give information to any inquirer.

In studying the exhibits, I paid special attention to the aëroplane models, with the object of ascertaining how far they were likely to furnish material that would further the systematic study of the problem of stability, and in particular of longitudinal stability, which is the more difficult of study. It appears, both from theory and experiment, that a very slight change in the form or dimensions, or even in the velocity of propulsion, of a model may change its motion from stable to unstable, and that if one machine travels safely through the air, another very closely resembling it may overturn at once. The general character of the exhibits does not seem to indicate that the constructors of flying models have

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